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Brief Survey

OF OUR

LOSSES

BY THE

Exportation of Wool.

WE that duly considers the Quantity and Quality of our *English* Wooll will readily acquiesce in the Opinion of our Ancestors, who term'd it *The Flower of the King's Crown; The Dairy of the Kingdom; The Chief Revenue of the Kings; The Gold of our Ophiir, and the Indies of England*: It affects all Conditions and Callings of Men amongst us, from the highest Peer to the lowest Peasant.

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II. The Quantity of our Wooll is so comprehensive, that were it secured to Our Selves, industriously manag'd in its full Manufacture, and Exported by an *English* Merchandize and Navigation; it would give Employment to so great a Number of People, that we should soon become the Glory of the whole World, and be able to ballance the Affairs of all *Europe*.

III. Its Quality is more excellent, God and Nature has herein seemingly conspired for a suitable Accommodation to all Ranks and Degrees of People, in the different goodness of several Counties Wooll, which is capable to be improved to any use, for the Benefit and Ornament of the Body in a great Variety of Fancy, and true Merit, from the thickest Drabb to the thinnest Crape, branching it self into various Occupations, which produce a wonderful Variety of Manufactures, suitable to all Seasons of the Year at Home, and the more different Climates abroad.

IV. By this Excellent Commodity we are able to Out-do our Neighbours in all Merchandizes abroad. In what Esteem have our *English* Factories liv'd in at *Hambro*, *Flanders*, *Holland* and *Dantzick* in former times? And what Estates have been brought home to our *English* Nation? And how are we now declined? Near expiring at *Hambro*; quite extinct in *Flanders*, and very few *English* Merchants in *Holland* or *Dantzick* that reap any Benefit by our *Golden-Fleece*; and no great number at Home; and I think, I may truly say, That the late Growth of *France* has been chiefly owing to the Advantages they have gained this Thirty Five Years last past by our *English* Wooll.

V. To illustrate this Matter, I will compute (with all possible exactness) the Loss to our Nation by one Pack of our finest Kemb'd Wooll Exported into *France* (large quantities of which have been Kemb'd at *Canterbury* and other Places, and then carried into *France* and *Holland*) by which we may make an Estimate of our whole Loss in its due Proportion.

| | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| One Pack containing Twelve Score of our finest Kemb'd Wooll, I com- pute to be worth at this time | <i>l.</i> 030 | <i>s.</i> 00 | <i>d.</i> 00 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|
| The Spinning of this into the finest Worsted, cost Five Shillings <i>per pound.</i> | 060 | 00 | 00 |
|--|-----|----|----|

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Four Ounces of this Worsted thus Spun, will make a Pair of Hose, worth Five Shillings the Knitting | 240 | 00 | 00 |
|--|-----|----|----|

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|
| This Pack so Knit, will make Eigh- ty Dozen of Hose, which pay the King 7½ <i>per Dozen</i> Custom | 002 | 10 | 00 |
|--|-----|----|----|

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|---|-----|----|----|
| The Dying of these Hose, partly with Materials of our own Growth, the Custom of Foreign Dy-Stuffs to the King, and the Freight, is a con- siderable Article of Value, tho difficult to fix at a certain Sum : And <i>France</i> hath had but little less Advantage in our courser Wooll ; being inabled by one Pack of ours, to work up two of their own into Manufactures of a bet- ter Quality. | 000 | 00 | 00 |
|---|-----|----|----|

VI. The Imployment to their People, and loss to ours (which is very considerable in so great a quantity of Wooll, an Account being taken of above Thirty Thousand Packs which were Landed in one Year at Three Ports in *France*) I take to be but half our Loss: For 'tis evident, as the *French* increas'd in their Woollen-Manufactures at Home, they prevail'd in their Merchandizes and Factories Abroad, particularly in *Spain*, which hath been their most gainful Trade; and by this Means got themselves into a Fabrick of *Spanish* Cloth, which doth hugely interfere with our Interest at Foreign Markets. Altho *Spanish* Woolls are as free for their Money as ours; yet were they confin'd to the Linens of their own Nation, or any other Product of *France*, to procure them, their Merchants in *Spain* would make no great Figure in their Sortments. The long Wooll of *England* and *Ireland* in its variety of Bays, Perpetuana's, Stockins Use, which is no way to be equal'd by any other part of the World (and so agreeable to the *Spaniards*, &c. and the *West-Indies*) is certainly the Master-Wheel of the *Spanish* Trade; and we are capable of securing this advantage to our own Subjects, which would hugely lessen the Interest of our chiefest Competitors in Trade. If the Strength of *England* may be said to be particular in any one thing (as *Sampson* in his Locks) I should readily assign it to the excellent Staple of our long-combing Wooll.

VII. And here I can't but mention one particular, by which in my Opinion, *France* hath had a great benefit our Wooll, by our own Act and Deed.

At the coming-in of King *Charles* the Second, the *Isles* of *Jersie*, *Guernsie*, *Alderney* and *Sark*, were allowed three Thousand Three Hundred Todds of *English* Wooll, each Todd Thirty Two Pounds. In the be-

ginning of the Reign of His Present Majesty King *William*, those Islands were allowed by Act of Parliament, Three Thousand Three Hundred Todds more, and a Liberty given by the same Act to *French, Dutch, Flanderskins, Hamburgers, Germans, Danes, Swedes, &c.* to Export our Woollen-Manufactures to their Native Countries upon equal Terms with our *English* Subjects; and how these New Sett of Merchants fell in to the Exporting of our Wooll and *Smuggling of Goods*, is pretty well known——*Felo de se*—— And it will be very difficult to prevent this Practice, as our Affairs now stand, having scarce *English* Merchants enough abroad to give Notice of the Landing of our Wooll on that side. This Six Thousand Six Hundred Todds allowed to those Islands, doth chiefly consist of Combing-Wooll for Worsted-Hose, a valuable and useful Commodity at most Foreign Markets; and the amount of the Workmanship may be easily cast up by the aforesaid Calculation; provided there be no greater quantity Exported, which is very much doubted.

How Commodious these Islands are in their Scituation for *France* to reap the benefit of their labour, I need only mention, the Inhabitants (consisting of many *French*) are able to live very Cheap, and work accordingly, at about half the Price we pay in many Places in *England*. They enjoy the Benefit of the Draw-back of the Custom of our *West-India* Goods, and pay not the least Tax to *England*. What Stockins are brought into *England*, and exported again, by the Carriage and Custom paid to the King, may be rendred Four or Five *per Cent.* cheaper by the *French*. The reason upon which this is grounded, I can't perceive.

To alledge that any part of the Creation is left insufficient for its own Subsistence and Preservation, must be a reflection upon Divine Providence; and that all Parts of the
World

World should be upon an equal Foot in obtaining this Subsistence, seems to be contrary to the Design of the great Creator. *St. Paul* valued himself in being a Free-born *Roman*. These Islands have Wooll of their own Growth, and doubtless must be very fair for Fishing, and by that means may be subservient to *England*, as we now serve them: Which Practice will strengthen their Islands in Shipping and Seamen, for their Preservation; and what is got out of the Sea will be a clear Gain; the loss of our Fishing is very considerable, and much lamented. I know no such Instance of Generosity, to give away that which God and Nature has made our Birth-right, whilst Multitudes of our Woollen Manufacturers have wanted it at Home, who are under many heavy Taxes. We may learn better of our rich Neighbours, who are said to burn part of their Spices in the *Indies*, that we may pay them the better Price, which we do at this time with a Witness.

VIII. As our Affairs now stand, it highly concerns us to secure our own Wooll, which being effectually done but one whole Year, many established Fabricks abroad with our Wooll, must of necessity sink, and the Manufacturers disperse, and many of our own brought home again, which many years would not recover. And we can promise to our selves, at this Juncture, no advantageous Settlement of Trade, but by an effectual Cure of this Evil; to the effecting of which, whatsoever Money is expended, will be brought in again to the King in his Customs, with a hundred-fold advantage to the Nation. To find out the Causes of Things, is said, to be a Work of Philosophy; to find out a fit Remedy, is of high Eminency; but to apply the Remedy, is a Matter of State and Policy.

FINIS.